



CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF PAKISTAN DEBATES

Thursday, 22nd December, 1949

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Thursday, the 22nd December, 1949

The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan met in the Assembly Chamber, Karachi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Sixth Session of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. Tamizuddin Khan) in the Chair.

The proceedings began with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Maulana Mohammad Abdullah-el Baqui.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS AND SIGNING OF ROLL OF MEMBERS AND MAKING OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. President : Members who have not already presented their credentials and signed the Roll of Members may now do so and also Members who have not already taken the prescribed oath or made the prescribed affirmation of allegiance to the Federation of Pakistan may now do so.

The following Members then presented their credentials and signed the Roll of Members :—

1. Mr. Shahoodul Huque (East Bengal : Muslim).
2. Mr. Abul Basher Mahmud Husain (East Bengal : Muslim).

The following Members made an Oath or Affirmation of their allegiance to the Federation of Pakistan :—

1. Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq (East Bengal : Muslim).
2. Mr. Hamidul Huq Chowdhury (East Bengal : Muslim).
3. Mr. Shahoodul Huque (East Bengal : Muslim).
4. Syed Abul Basher Mahmud Husain (East Bengal : Muslim).

CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF MAULANA SHABBIR AHMAD USMANI

The Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Leader of the House) : Sir, the sad demise of Maulana Shabbir Ahmad Usmani is an irreparable loss

not only to this Assembly or to Pakistan but to the whole Muslim World. The Maulana held a position of pre-eminence in the world of learning and was unique in his knowledge of Muslim theology.

His works commanded respect and admiration not only in this sub-Continent but throughout the world of Islam.

He was a practical teacher, and a pious, austere and selfless man. He had a fervent love for Islam and he realised its true import and significance. That is why he supported the Pakistan movement at a time when some other noteworthy Ulemas had opposed it. For him the solidarity of Pakistan was essential for the progress of Islam, so he did not tolerate anything that might harm this State. In this connection he kept all factors in his view. The Maulana was inspired by the spirit of toleration to the highest degree, and bigotry, communal bias or narrow mindedness were things quite foreign to his nature. He was fully alive to the needs of his time and never ignored them. He had constantly in view all those considerations and factors, attention to which was vital in the task of building up the State and the nation in accordance with the behests of Islam and the spirit of the age ; and he fully realised the difficulties attendant on this task.

He had an insight into the political and constitutional problems and his advice was invaluable to us in Constitution-making and nation-building work. To be deprived of that advice at the present juncture is a great loss indeed.

Sir, I request that the sympathy and condolence of this House be conveyed to the bereaved family and this meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect to his greatness.

In the end I pray that God may take him under the wings of his mercy.

Shri Sris Chandra Chattopadhyaya (Leader of the Opposition) : Mr. President, I am much grieved to hear the death of the great Maulana Sahib. His presence, specially for the minorities, during the framing of the constitution, would have been of great help. Generally the religious people—Maulanas and Pandits—are a bit conservative. But I found him a liberal man although he was a Maulana. Therefore, I had great respect for him. He was one of the greatest scholars and theologians of this country. Nay, he was a well-known figure in the Islamic world and Islam has lost in him a distinguished son. As regards minorities, we have lost a well-wisher and a friend. Here I wish to quote a passage from a speech delivered by Maulana Sahib in this Assembly on objective resolution :

“It is the duty of an Islamic State to fully safeguard the right, liberty, honour, religious freedom and civic rights of all the loyal non-Muslims within the jurisdiction.”

Further on :

“What is most important is the fact that enjoyment of these rights by non-Muslims does not depend on the sweet will of the Muslim majority ; it is a duty imposed on the latter by God to protect the rights of the minorities and they can on no pretext whatsoever swerve from the path of their duty”.

That was a statement made in this Assembly. Therefore we, specially the minorities, have lost a friend in him. If we really wish to respect him, it is better to follow his precepts and his examples and messages. I accept this portion of his statement as his last testament of friendship for the minorities.

We believe in immortality of soul. So my wishes will be : May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. President : Maulana Shabbir Ahmed Usmani passed away at Baghdadul Jadid, Bahawalpur State on Tuesday, the 13th December, 1949 at the age of 64.

He was born in the district of Bijnaur, U.P., and received his education at the world famous *Darul Uloom* of Deoband. He was a pupil and later became a close associate of late Maulana Mahmudul Hassan of revered memory, whose unfinished work, the *Tafsirul Quran* was completed by him. Allama Shabbir Ahmed Usmani dedicated his life to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge. He was the Head Teacher of Madrassah Fatehpuri in Delhi for 2 years, Head Teacher, *Darul Uloom*, Dabel, Surat, for 12 years, and a Teacher of the *Darul Uloom*, Deoband, for 18 years. He ultimately rose to be the head of that great institution at Deoband. His reputation as an erudite oriental scholar had spread throughout the Islamic world. The literary works he has left show the depth of his learning. The posthumous degree of Doctorate that has been conferred on him by the Punjab University is a fitting tribute to his scholarship.

His was a life of selfless devotion to duty and his piety was as deep as his learning. Nor was he oblivious of the mundane affairs of social life. His patriotic fervour and zeal for freedom were of a unique character. During the Balkan war he took a leading part in collecting money for the *Hilal-e-Ahmar* (Red Crescent) Fund. He had taken a prominent part in the political activities of pre-partition India, and the culminating glory of his political career was reached when, in 1946, with a rare vision and superb boldness he severed his long connection with his old reactionary political colleagues and established the *Jamiatul Ulema-i-Islam* of which he became the Founder-President. He threw himself heart and soul into the struggle for freedom and the weight of his support was a prominent factor in the achievement of Pakistan. He was a great source of strength to the Father of the Nation, the late Quaid-i-Azam.

After the establishment of Pakistan, though in failing health, his constant endeavour was to build up and strengthen the infant State. An educationist *par excellence* throughout his life, he realised that the greatest factor in the making of the nation lay in a re-orientation and countrywide dissemination of education. His nation-building efforts were, therefore, mainly directed to this end. And it was an educational mission that called him to his last journey in life to Bahawalpur. Though not in the best of health he readily responded to that call and practically laid down his life at the altar of Education.

He was a most prominent member of this Assembly and it is poignant to contemplate that his sweet ringing voice will no longer be heard on the floor of this House. It is a pity that it was not given to him to complete his work in the Constituent Assembly and Providence in His inscrutable wisdom, summoned him away from the earthly arena. But what he had already accomplished will be gratefully remembered for ever by generations to come. We all know what unique part he played in the conception and formulation of the Objectives Resolution which will be the basic foundation of the constitution of Pakistan.

His sudden demise at this juncture is an irreparable loss to this House and to Pakistan, and the Chair whole-heartedly associates itself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan and Mr. S. C. Chattopadhyaya. As suggested by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan as a

mark of respect to the memory of the Maulana Sahib the House will be adjourned without transacting any business. I am sure it is the desire of the House that a message of sympathy should be sent to the family of the deceased. I would now request you, ladies and gentlemen, to rise in your seats and those of you who so like to offer silent prayers for the soul of the departed great.

(All Members then rose in their seats and offered silent prayers.)

Mr. President : Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

The House stands adjourned till 4-30 P.M. on Friday, the 30th December, 1949.

The Assembly then adjourned till Half Past Four in the Evening on Friday, the 30th December, 1949.